

REMARKS

Claims 1-146 are pending in this application. Claims 1-30 and 89-146 are withdrawn.

Claims 31-88 are rejected. Claims 31, 38, 46, 47 and 88 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the objection to the drawings, Applicant has amended Fig. 20 keeping in mind the comments of the Examiner. Further, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the Submission of Formal Drawings filed June 3, 2004, wherein all foreign language descriptions in the other Figures were substituted with English language descriptions. Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings are in allowable form.

Responsive to the objection to the specification, Applicant has amended the specification keeping in mind the comments of the Examiner. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification is in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 31-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, Applicant has amended claims 31, 38, 46, 47 and 88. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's assertion that the claims as filed are generally narrative and indefinite, and fail to conform with current U.S. practice, and appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to the literal English translation of the priority document (PCT/EP02/02075) which was submitted with the present application when filed. Applicant respectfully submits that a comparison of the claims as filed versus the claims of the literal English translation of the priority document clearly shows that the claims of the present application, as filed, are rewritten to be generally definite and in conformance with current U.S. practice. With regard to the Examiner's comments relative to claim 31, Applicant has amended claim 31, keeping in mind the comments of the Examiner. With regard to the Examiner's comments relative to claims 46 and 47, Applicant has amended

claims 46 and 47, keeping in mind the comments of the Examiner and consistent with the specification as filed at page 7, lines 7-9. Further with regard to the Examiner's comments relative to claims 46 and 47, Applicant respectfully traverse the Examiner's comment that Trademark names may not be used in claims, and directs the Examiner's to MPEP 2173.05(u) which indicates that the presence of a trademark or trade name in a claim is not, *per se*, improper under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. With regard to the Examiner's comments relative to claim 62, Applicant has amended the specification to indicate that angles α_1 , α_2 , are examples of angles of attack, keeping in mind the comments of the Examiner. As angles α_1 , α_2 are described in the specification and shown in the drawings as filed, no new matter has been added. With regard to the Examiner's comments relative to claims 84 and 86, Applicant respectfully submits that liner, graphic and sack Kraft papers are well known terms of art (see for example: <http://www.cpbis.org/research/projects/gasification/webtool/ProductExplanation.php>), where sack Kraft paper indicates a paper manufactured using kraft pulp, usually noted for its strength, and used in grocery bag and sack paper, shipping sack paper (shipping of cement, flour, animal feed) and unbleached kraft wrapping paper; graphic paper is a paper suitable for non text items such as illustrations, photographs and/or artwork; and liner paper is a unbleached kraft paperboard used for the flat facing material in corrugated containerboard (cardboard box). With regard to the Examiner's comments relative to claim 88, Applicant has amended claim 88 and the specification keeping in mind the comments of the Examiner. Specifically, claim 88 is amended to recite in part: "a tear length ratio RL L/Q property of the fiber material web" to make the nomenclature consistent with Figs. 10-17, for example, and the specification has been amended likewise. As indicated in Figs. 10-17 as filed, the tear length ratio RL L/Q is a tensile stiffness relationship

indicating the ratio of longitudinal tear length/transverse tear length. For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 31-88 are in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 31-47, 53, 54, 62-65 and 67-76 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Austrian Patent No. AT 355 412 (Rauchmaul), Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that claims 31-47, 53, 54, 62-65 and 67-76 are now in condition for allowance.

Rauchmaul '412 discloses suction box 10 (Figs. 1-2) which has screen plate 16 with wire holes 40 and wire slots 41. By way of snifter valve 44, the required optimal negative pressure head in suction box 10 can be adjusted (page 7). In the frontal surfaces 17, 18 of suction box 10 there are provided openings 19 in the bottom area, in the area of which openings, easily detachable tube flanges 24, 25 are arranged which possess flanges 28 and tube sockets 29 (page 11).

In contrast, claim 31 recites in part: “... producing at least one zonal pressure gradient in the fibrous suspension during said dewatering step; and influencing a main fiber direction in the fiber material web.”. (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Rauchmaul '412, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Rauchmaul '412 discloses easily detachable tube flanges which possess flanges and tube sockets which aid in the maintenance of the suction box. Rauchmaul '412 fails to disclose or suggest at least the steps of producing at least one zonal pressure gradient in the fibrous suspension during the dewatering step, and influencing a main fiber direction in the fiber material web as claimed in independent claim 31. To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim (MPEP 2131), and as Rauchmaul '412 is completely silent regarding at least

the steps of producing at least one zonal pressure gradient in the fibrous suspension during the dewatering step, and influencing a main fiber direction in the fiber material web as claimed in independent claim 31 of the present application, Rauchmaul '412 does not therefore anticipate the present invention as claimed.

An advantage of the present invention is that the main fiber direction in the fiber material web is influenced thereby improving the characteristics of the fiber material web.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 31, and claims 32-47, 53, 54, 62-65 and 67-76 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 48-52, 55-61, 66 and 77-88 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by Austrian Patent No. AT 355 412 (Rauchmaul), Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that claims 48-52, 55-61, 66 and 77-88 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 48-52, 55-61, 66 and 77-88 are dependent upon claim 31 which is distinguished from Rauchmaul '412 as described above; therefore any dependent claims, including claims 48-52, 55-61, 66 and 77-88, are distinguished from Rauchmaul '41.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 31, and claims 48-52, 55-61, 66 and 77-88 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

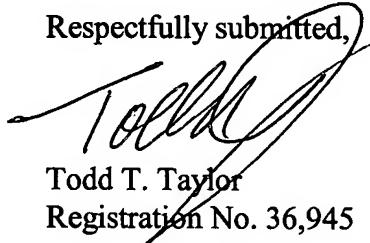
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore

in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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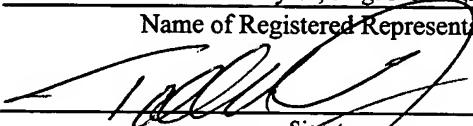
Attorney for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: April 7, 2005.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

April 7, 2005

Date

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AMENDMENT(S) TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Fig. 20 as indicated in red on the attached annotated marked-up drawing. A replacement sheet presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes is also enclosed.



FIG. 20

